

find food for mirth in the solemn records of parliament; but rarely can we read them, at least such as relate to our early ages, without meeting with some absurdity rendering the maintenance of gravity a difficult matter. While a bill for the improvement of the London police, brought into the House of Commons in George III's reign was going through Committee, a clause was read which enacted, that the watchmen should be *compelled* to sleep in the day time. An old Baronet stood up and proposed that the clause should be extended to members of the House of Commons, for gout for many nights past had prevented his sleep, and he doubted not that others as well as himself, would be glad to be *compelled* to sleep.—*English paper.*

THE POLYNESIAN.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT.

HONOLULU, SATURDAY, MAY 17, 1845.

The first volume of the second series of the Polynesian has drawn to a close. As the organ of government, the official channel through which it makes known to the public its objects and policy, it could not be expected that its tone or the manner in which it has been conducted, would receive the approbation of the entire community. It cannot be otherwise than that some will feel aggrieved by any change in public measures, for every change implies an alteration for better or worse in the relations of individuals either towards the Government or the public at large. Individuals too commonly measure public acts by the apparent or immediate bearing they may have upon their personal interests. The question with them is, whether their particular trade, business or profession is benefitted, or does this or that innovation affect unfavorably their present position. Politicians of the present day, well aware of the universality of this spirit, to sustain their designs generally bring them forward in the guise of self-interest. They appeal rather to the selfishness of parties, setting before them benefits or aggrandisements to their particular avocations rather than to high-toned principle or enlarged patriotic sentiment. This course narrowing the horizon of each set from a wide, general view, to a merely local glance, engenders conflicting opinions which are sustained with all the zeal a deep pecuniary stake may serve to inspire. The advocates of each come at last to view their world as the entire world, and to deduce from it rules which it seeks to apply to all. So that although in reality, one branch of the human race or one part of a nation cannot secure a healthful prosperity without its reflecting more or less favorably on the world at large, yet each people or party seeking too exclusively to impart their views to others, regardless of real differences of circumstances and the force of previous associations, that which if properly advocated would become a common blessing, by an opposite and headstrong course creates positive injuries.

Although nations towards one another may bear the same selfish and hostile relations which political parties within them individually do to each other, yet the government of a nation as a whole, from its commanding position and centering within it the local knowledge to be derived from all its constituent parts, is most likely to arrive at a correct conclusion of what is for the general welfare. Representatives from every quarter and class are brought together to form the complex machinery of government, for it is only by an accurate knowledge of the several parts that a right estimate of the whole is obtained. Individuals thus drawn together in a government, enlarge their ideas by their wider scope of action; each acquires something from his fellow, and just in that proportion does he divest himself of local prejudices and contracted views.—Hence when all are well disposed a uniformity of opinion and action, with alternate concessions ensue, highly favorable to judicious legislation. It is frequently charged upon a public man, as disreputable, that by coming into office he has changed his views or opinions. In many instances it would be

a sign of either stupidity or folly, if he did not. None but a blind man would expect another to see as clearly in the misty twilight as in the clear noonday. And until a politician is placed in the situation of a statesman, he has his real business to learn.

The difference then being so greatly in favor of a well organized government to obtain correct and enlarged information, it should tend to a conciliatory and charitable judgment on their part towards those whose opportunities are less and who view questions through a more uncertain medium.—The latter also by duly considering their respective situations, will perceive how much more likely they are to err in judgment from that very circumstance, and should be the less pertinacious in their opinions and efforts to enforce them. They should bear in mind that the probability of erring is greater on their side, not from differences in intellectual power but from the want of the inherent and adventitious sources of information common alike to all national organizations.

We believe it to be true of nations that the more they enlarge their intercourse with others the less disposed to war do they become. Acquaintance in this way begets mutual respect and benefits. We find that the most isolated nations are the most illiberal, and partake the strongest of national prejudices. In none are these stronger than Japan, China, and countries which like Spain have drawn around them the strangling folds of an exclusive commercial policy. Whereas England, France, Germany, and the United States, reciprocally respect each other's worth and value the advantages which a liberal intercourse has developed among them all. A like effect will result from a similar policy pursued on the part of a government towards its constituents, and of the several parties among them towards it and each other. An honorable intercourse necessarily ripens knowledge, enlarges the circle of ideas, and promotes mutual respect. The more intimate the acquaintance, it will be found that enlightened mankind, naturally desiring the same ends, to wit, happiness and prosperity, agree the nearer in their means for attaining them. The greatest discrepancies are among those the widest separated by selfish views. Consequently a government is equally interested with the subject in promoting an interchange of ideas, diffusing wisdom through all classes, and drawing it from all sources; in short in developing and exemplifying the grand idea of government, that it is created for the good of the governed. That it is not a thing of itself, a separate existence, struggling with a multitude of other rival existences for life and power; but merely the head and lungs and arms of the body politic, by which it thinks, speaks and acts; and that a vigorous organization of the Government is as indispensable for the operations of a nation as a sound body for the active functions of an intelligent soul.

Overland Mail. American News.

The Bremen brig Express, 22 days from Mazatlan, brings dates from Europe into February and from the United States into March. Mr. Polk was elected President by a majority of 65 electoral votes over Clay; 170 to 105 the vote stood upon counting before both houses of Congress. Mr. Polk's inaugural address has been received; it is short, and he promises to be the President of the country and not of a party; recommends a revenue tariff, with incidental protection; low duties on the necessities of life—high on luxuries.

Feb. 28th, Texas was admitted into the Union by a vote in the House of 172 to 76, absent 13; in the Senate, 27 to 26. The Mexican minister Almonte has been recalled, and all communication with Mr. Shannon, the American minister at Mexico, had ceased on the part of that government. It was not supposed, however, that war would grow out of the angry state of feeling between the two countries. France would appear to

be favorable to the annexation, in opposition to the wishes of the English Government.

The negotiations relative to the Oregon had not terminated favorably. England, it is said, had offered the 49th deg. as a boundary, or to refer the question for arbitration to any impartial European power which the United States would select. President Polk was unfavorable to either proposition.

Considerable excitement prevailed in the United States from the alleged discovery among Santa Anna's papers of documents relating to a proposed cession of the Californias to Great Britain, which he had been secretly negotiating.

In March, Florida and Iowa were admitted into the Union; vote in the Senate 36 to 9.

Buchanan, of Pennsylvania, is the supposed Secretary of State of the new administration; the other members of the cabinet not yet known.

In the Senate, Webster succeeds Choate, from Massachusetts.

The new postage bill has passed Congress and become a law, reducing the postage on single letters to 5 cents, to any part of the country, and other rates proportionately. The franking privilege has also been considerably amended.

Cushing's treaty with China has been confirmed, and the Columbus 74 was fitting out, it was reported, for China.

Packet ships England and the United States, from Liverpool, lost at sea, with 164 passengers.

Jan. 13—Mr. Abeel was appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, as Consul for the Hawaiian Islands.

Dates from here to Oct. 1 had been received at New Orleans.

NEW ISLAND.—In lat. 21 deg. 10 m. S., 138 deg. 54 m. W., in the track of vessels from Tahiti to Valparaiso, a new island, 6 miles in circumference, not laid down on any charts, has been discovered, and named Isle of Faith.

Santa Anna has been sent to Mexico to be tried for high crimes and misdemeanors.—He is to write his defence. He is said to have \$12,000,000 in various places of security, by the aid of which he may escape conviction.

FROM EUROPE.

The Guizot ministry in France has been losing power, and at the last dates it was supposed a new cabinet would be created, with Count Molé at the head.

Admiral du Petit Thouars had very honorably declined the gift of the sword, on the ground that its presentation would imply an unfavorable comment upon the ministry that recalled him. At his advice, the money (30,000 francs) intended for its purchase, was distributed among the families of the wounded and dead seamen in his expedition.

The mammoth steam-ship Great Britain is at last out of the dock, and sails for New-York 2nd of August. She has life boats to accommodate 400 persons. Her speed is reported as exceeding that of the fastest sea-going boats.

G. Pritchard Esq., H. B. M.'s Consul for the Navigator's Group, left London in Jan., with his family, for his station, via Mexico and these islands. They may be looked for here daily.

The Tahiti affairs still occupy much space in the European papers, but it was thought that any change in the French ministry would be favorable to an honorable settlement. An interesting series of Despatches has been communicated by the French Government to the Chamber of Peers, consisting of the correspondence between the French minister in London and M. Guizot, and the despatches to and from Gov. Bruat; but even an intelligible condensation would be too long for our columns. They are to be found in the London Evening Mail of January.

Jan. 21—M. Thiers, in the Chamber of Deputies, in a speech condemning the ministry for "blindly compromising the interests of the country," says—"the occupation of a few miserable islands in Oceania was

neither necessary to her trade nor to her naval power, and it was a great fault to have planted the flag of France in the Marquesas or the Society Islands." "The position of France was then so critical that she could neither remain in nor evacuate them."

Le Constitutionnel states that at the representations of Lord Cowley, the ministry had sent orders to Gov. Bruat to discontinue the publication of "L'Océanie Française."

The protectorate of France over Wallis Island has been relinquished, but continued at the Gambiers, on account of their having been civilized by French missionaries.—Applications have been made from time to time to England by the chiefs of several of the southern archipelagoes, for the establishment of a protectorate government, but she has uniformly declined, desiring rather to see them independent, and as at these islands, requiring only an equal influence for herself with other nations.

The American Secretary of State's (Calhoun) letter to Mr. King, in which he so openly advocates slavery and attacks the philanthropic endeavors of England to abolish it, creates great sensation and no little indignation both in the United States and Europe. It is a singular State document for the present age, and its statements and arguments deserve the deep consideration of every friend of humanity.

In August last, the American minister at Paris, Mr. King, received a personal declaration from Louis Philippe, "that in no event would any steps be taken by his Government in the slightest degree hostile, or which would give the United States just cause of complaint." In a subsequent conversation between Mr. King and M. Guizot, that minister is reported to have declared that France had not agreed to unite with England in a protest against annexation.—The London Times on this, significantly remarks,—"*We require to be informed, categorically, whether or no the French Government was not at the same time affecting to join in our endeavor to maintain the status quo in Texas, whilst it was in reality giving these assurances to Mr. King.* The charge is a serious one, and we await the answer."

Translations of the Laws and Regulations promulgated by the French authorities at the Society Islands, and still in force, have been furnished us, which we shall publish weekly, for the especial benefit of the shipping that may touch there, and others interested.

We commence with the Quarantine Regulations for the Port of Papeite, Tahiti.

Port of Papeite, Tahiti.

QUARANTINE REGULATIONS.

ARTICLE 1ST.—Whenever the pilot shall accost a vessel in the offing, he will, before going on board, inquire whether any contagious disease exists on board, such as—cholera, yellow fever, small pox, or any other. Upon an answer in the negative, he will bring the ship into port. In the other case, the pilot will abstain from going on board, and without quitting his boat, he will anchor the ship outside of a line from Montaut and the river of the Battery of the Embuscade, in a manner as much as possible not to interfere with the entry or departure of vessels.

ARTICLE 2D.—Conformably to Article 4th of the Port Regulations, the boat of the guard ship will examine each vessel immediately on its arrival. The "freedom of the port" shall be immediately granted, if the captain can produce a clean bill, and if he declares upon oath, that during his passage he has exposed himself to no contagious disease.

ARTICLE 3D.—If the ship is not furnished with a clean bill, it cannot communicate either with the shore or ships in the harbor. It must await the arrival of the physician charged with the quarantine service, to whom the captain will give the necessary proofs regarding the healthy state on board, and at the place from which he comes.—According to the nature of this information, the freedom of the port will be granted or refused, as the physician who has received the declaration shall judge advisable.

In case of an inexact or false report, a fine of from 200 to 10,000 francs shall be pronounced against the captain. He shall be liable to suffer death if a contagious disease breaks out and it is proved to have ex-